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10/807,305	03/24/2004	Michio Aizawa	00862.023523	3809

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EXAMINER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

		Application No.	Applicant(s)
		10/807,305	AIZAWA, MICHIO
Office Action Summary		Examiner	Art Unit
		Joel Stoffregen	2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *24 March 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-8* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-8* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *24 March 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *03/24/2004*.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This action is in response to the original application filed on 03/24/2004.

2.   Claims 1-8 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1-8 are independent

claims.

Priority

3.   Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which

papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

4.   The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 03/24/2004 is being

considered by the examiner.

Specification

5.   The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly

indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

        •

6.   Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the
disclosure.

        The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single
paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that
the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract
on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology
often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The
abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether
there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8.   **Claims 2, 4, 6, and 8** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated

by Shaw et al. Patent No.: US 6,363,342 ("SHAW").

9.   Regarding **claim 2**, SHAW teaches an information processing apparatus ("word

pronunciation editor 10", SHAW, column 2, line 37) for inputting a pronunciation symbol

("phonetic transcriptions 26", SHAW, column 3, line 9) corresponding to an English

notation ("spelled word 12", SHAW, column 3, line 2), comprising:

associative pronunciation symbol information holding means ("phoneticizer 24",

SHAW, column 5, line 26) for holding associative pronunciation symbol information

("pronunciations output at 84", SHAW, column 5, line 33) indicating a relationship

between a predetermined alphabet and a pronunciation symbol ("representing possible

pronunciation candidates of the spelled word input sequence", SHAW, column 5, lines

37-39) when the predetermined alphabet forms a part of an arbitrary English notation

("sequentially examines each letter in the sequence", SHAW, column 5, lines 40-41);

pronunciation symbol statistical information holding means ("leaf nodes", SHAW,

column 6, line 61) for holding statistical information ("populated with probability data",

SHAW, column 6, line 62) associated with a probability of occurrence of each

pronunciation symbol immediately after a predetermined pronunciation symbol (see

SHAW, FIG. 5, "the symbol P represents a question about a phoneme and its

neighboring phonemes", column 7, lines 5-15);

display means (see SHAW, FIG. 2, block 26) for extracting pronunciation

symbols corresponding to an input alphabet from the pronunciation symbol information

("phoneticizer 24 generates a list of suggested phonetic transcriptions 26 based on the

spelled word input", SHAW, column 3, lines 8-10), and displaying the extracted

pronunciation symbols while sorting them on the basis of the statistical information

("confidence level scores... are used to order the displayed list of n-best suggested

transcriptions 26 as provided by the phoneticizer 24", SHAW, column 3, lines 26-29);

and

determination means ("user selection mechanism 28", SHAW, column 3, line 30)

for determining a pronunciation symbol corresponding to the English notation from the

displayed pronunciation symbols ("allows the user to select a pronunciation from the list

of suggested transcriptions 26", SHAW, column 3, lines 30-31).

10.   Regarding **claim 4**, SHAW teaches an information processing method in an

information processing apparatus ("word pronunciation editor 10", SHAW, column 2, line

37) for inputting a pronunciation symbol ("phonetic transcriptions 26", SHAW, column 3,

line 9) corresponding to an English notation ("spelled word 12", SHAW, column 3, line

2), comprising:

associative pronunciation symbol information holding means ("phoneticizer 24",

SHAW, column 5, line 26) for holding associative pronunciation symbol information

("pronunciations output at 84", SHAW, column 5, line 33) indicating a relationship

between a predetermined alphabet and a pronunciation symbol ("representing possible

pronunciation candidates of the spelled word input sequence", SHAW, column 5, lines

37-39) when the predetermined alphabet forms a part of an arbitrary English notation

("sequentially examines each letter in the sequence", SHAW, column 5, lines 40-41);

pronunciation symbol statistical information holding means ("leaf nodes", SHAW,

column 6, line 61) for holding statistical information ("populated with probability data",

SHAW, column 6, line 62) associated with a probability of occurrence of each

pronunciation symbol immediately after a predetermined pronunciation symbol (see

SHAW, FIG. 5, "the symbol P represents a question about a phoneme and its

neighboring phonemes", column 7, lines 5-15);

display means (see SHAW, FIG. 2, block 26) for extracting pronunciation

symbols corresponding to an input alphabet from the pronunciation symbol information

("phoneticizer 24 generates a list of suggested phonetic transcriptions 26 based on the

spelled word input", SHAW, column 3, lines 8-10), and displaying the extracted

pronunciation symbols while sorting them on the basis of the statistical information

("confidence level scores... are used to order the displayed list of n-best suggested

transcriptions 26 as provided by the phoneticizer 24", SHAW, column 3, lines 26-29);

and

determination means ("user selection mechanism 28", SHAW, column 3, line 30)

for determining a pronunciation symbol corresponding to the English notation from the

displayed pronunciation symbols ("allows the user to select a pronunciation from the list

of suggested transcriptions 26", SHAW, column 3, lines 30-31).

11.   Regarding **claim 6**, SHAW teaches a control program ("word pronunciation editor

10", SHAW, column 2, line 37) for making a computer implement an information

processing method of claim 3 (see rejection of claim 4 above).

12.   Regarding **claim 8**, SHAW teaches a storage medium storing a control program

("word pronunciation editor 10", SHAW, column 2, line 37) for making a computer

implement an information processing method of claim 3 (see rejection of claim 4 above).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

13.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

14.   **Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Shaw et al. Patent No.: US 6,363,342 ("SHAW") in view of Miller et al. Patent No.:

US 5,896,321 ("MILLER").

15.   Regarding **claim 1**, SHAW teaches an information processing apparatus ("word

pronunciation editor 10", SHAW, column 2, line 37) for inputting a pronunciation symbol

("phonetic transcriptions 26", SHAW, column 3, line 9) corresponding to an English

notation ("spelled word 12", SHAW, column 3, line 2), comprising:

pronunciation symbol information holding means ("phoneticizer 24", SHAW,

column 5, line 26) for holding pronunciation symbol information ("pronunciations output

at 84", SHAW, column 5, line 33) indicating a relationship between a predetermined

alphabet and a pronunciation symbol ("representing possible pronunciation candidates

of the spelled word input sequence", SHAW, column 5, lines 37-39);

pronunciation symbol statistical information holding means ("leaf nodes", SHAW,

column 6, line 61) for holding statistical information ("populated with probability data",

SHAW, column 6, line 62) associated with a probability of occurrence of each

pronunciation symbol immediately after a predetermined pronunciation symbol (see

SHAW, FIG. 5, "the symbol P represents a question about a phoneme and its

neighboring phonemes", column 7, lines 5-15);

display means (see SHAW, FIG. 2, block 26) for extracting pronunciation

symbols corresponding to an input alphabet from the pronunciation symbol information

("phoneticizer 24 generates a list of suggested phonetic transcriptions 26 based on the

spelled word input", SHAW, column 3, lines 8-10), and displaying the extracted

pronunciation symbols while sorting them on the basis of the statistical information

("confidence level scores... are used to order the displayed list of n-best suggested

transcriptions 26 as provided by the phoneticizer 24", SHAW, column 3, lines 26-29);

and

determination means ("user selection mechanism 28", SHAW, column 3, line 30)

for determining a pronunciation symbol corresponding to the English notation from the

displayed pronunciation symbols ("allows the user to select a pronunciation from the list

of suggested transcriptions 26", SHAW, column 3, lines 30-31).

However, SHAW does not disclose that the pronunciation symbol starts from a

predetermined alphabet.

In the same field of word spelling, MILLER teaches a symbol that starts from a

predetermined alphabet (see MILLER, FIG. 2A, the completed words in block 206 start

from the letters in block 204).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to further limit the pronunciation candidates of Shaw et

al. by using the text completion method of Miller et al. to exclude pronunciations that do

not start with the proper letters in order to satisfy certain display criteria (see MILLER,

column 4, lines 38-42).

16.   Regarding **claim 3**, SHAW teaches an information processing method in an

information processing apparatus ("word pronunciation editor 10", SHAW, column 2, line

37) for inputting a pronunciation symbol ("phonetic transcriptions 26", SHAW, column 3,

line 9) corresponding to an English notation ("spelled word 12", SHAW, column 3, line

2), comprising:

        pronunciation symbol information holding means ("phoneticizer 24", SHAW,

column 5, line 26) for holding pronunciation symbol information ("pronunciations output

at 84", SHAW, column 5, line 33) indicating a relationship between a predetermined

alphabet and a pronunciation symbol ("representing possible pronunciation candidates

of the spelled word input sequence", SHAW, column 5, lines 37-39);

        pronunciation symbol statistical information holding means ("leaf nodes", SHAW,

column 6, line 61) for holding statistical information ("populated with probability data",

SHAW, column 6, line 62) associated with a probability of occurrence of each

pronunciation symbol immediately after a predetermined pronunciation symbol (see

SHAW, FIG. 5, "the symbol P represents a question about a phoneme and its

neighboring phonemes", column 7, lines 5-15);

        display means (see SHAW, FIG. 2, block 26) for extracting pronunciation

symbols corresponding to an input alphabet from the pronunciation symbol information

("phoneticizer 24 generates a list of suggested phonetic transcriptions 26 based on the

spelled word input", SHAW, column 3, lines 8-10), and displaying the extracted

pronunciation symbols while sorting them on the basis of the statistical information

("confidence level scores... are used to order the displayed list of n-best suggested

transcriptions 26 as provided by the phoneticizer 24", SHAW, column 3, lines 26-29);

and

determination means ("user selection mechanism 28", SHAW, column 3, line 30)

for determining a pronunciation symbol corresponding to the English notation from the

displayed pronunciation symbols ("allows the user to select a pronunciation from the list

of suggested transcriptions 26", SHAW, column 3, lines 30-31).

However, SHAW does not disclose that the pronunciation symbol starts from a

predetermined alphabet.

In the same field of word spelling, MILLER teaches a symbol that starts from a

predetermined alphabet (see MILLER, FIG. 2A, the completed words in block 206 start

from the letters in block 204).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time

the invention was made to further limit the pronunciation candidates of Shaw et al. by

using the text completion method of Miller et al. to exclude pronunciations that do not

start with the proper letters in order to satisfy certain display criteria (see MILLER,

column 4, lines 38-42).

17.   Regarding **claim 5**, SHAW and MILLER teach a control program ("word

pronunciation editor 10", SHAW, column 2, line 37) for making a computer implement

an information processing method of claim 3 (see rejection of claim 3 above).

18.   Regarding **claim 7**, SHAW and MILLER teach a storage medium storing a

control program ("word pronunciation editor 10", SHAW, column 2, line 37) for making a

computer implement an information processing method of claim 3 (see rejection of claim
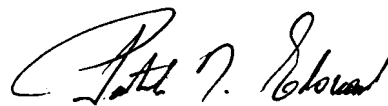
3 above).

Conclusion

19.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure. A list of the pertinent prior art can be found on the included form

PTO-892 Notice of References Cited.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Joel Stoffregen whose telephone number is (571) 270-

1454. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 6:30

p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Patrick Edouard can be reached on (571) 272-7603. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

PATRICK N. EDOUARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

JS